

terrible flooding in Iowa, 24 lives lost already, 40,000 people who had to be evacuated, now is the time to think about how we help them in the future and prevent others from this fate.

This is the second 500-year flood in the last 15 years. There is a thought-provoking article on the front page of today's Washington Post that I would commend to all of my colleagues. It recalls something that I saw when I last visited Iowa, that the whole State has been dramatically replumbed. Ninety percent of the wetlands have been filled and farmed. Last year alone, 106,000 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program were taken out and farmed, acres that would have served as a great big sponge to capture the water instead of making flooding worse.

Because the effects of global warming and planting one-third of the State in corn and soybeans, we should reflect on the human role in the unfolding disaster. Now is the time to review our disastrous farm and water resource policies so that we can protect people in the future from this fate.

#### EXPLORATION, INNOVATION, AND CONSERVATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the continued rise in energy prices threatens our economy and our national security. There are unfriendly nations around the world that are reliant on the world's addiction to oil. Unstable leaders like Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez delight in our dependence on imported oil and they are invested in using that power to promote their destructive agenda. Our national security is threatened by these circumstances. At the same time, we are sending billions of our dollars out of this country to buy foreign oil.

House Republicans have proposed a sensible plan of exploration, innovation and conservation that outlines long-term and short-term solutions to promote energy independence.

There is absolutely no reason why we cannot expand American oil and natural gas exploration, develop alternative energy sources and promote energy efficiency all at the same time. Incorrectly, the energy debate in this country has been sold as a fight between those who support alternative fuels and those who want to drill. The House Republican plan includes all of the above.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

#### CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL

(Mr. KLEIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the Congressional Award Gold Medal from my congressional district in south Florida. This award recognizes a significant commitment to community activism, as well as leadership development and physical fitness.

I am proud to recognize Angela Boyd, Addison Craig and Elizabeth Lott from Palm Beach Gardens and Jacob Schattie from Jupiter.

Angela Boyd completed over 450 hours of community service, including raising money for juvenile diabetes.

Addison Craig worked to raise money for organizations dedicated to finding a cure for cancer and heart disease.

Elizabeth Lott completed 500 hours of work with children and cancer patients.

Jacob Schattie was a coach and camp counselor to local youth.

These young men and women are role models for people, young and old, in my community and throughout our country. I am proud to honor these distinguished individuals today.

#### FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR SKYROCKETING ENERGY PRICES

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about energy, the fact that this is the people's House and the people are speaking. They are speaking loud and clear. Unfortunately, I do not think that the Democratic leadership is listening to the people. Survey after survey says we are tired of sending money to Hugo Chavez. Let's spend that money in the good old USA.

Madam Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, when this new leadership took charge, said we are going to bring real change for America. Well, the real change that this leadership has brought for America is we have the highest gasoline-diesel prices in the history of this country.

Madam Speaker, real change would be for the Democratic leadership for a change to begin to bring bills to the floor of this House that will bring long-term energy security and lower gasoline prices for the American people.

Madam Speaker, it is time for a change. It is time for you to change your position and bring energy legislation to the floor so that American people do not have to suffer and we do not have to send Hugo Chavez any more of our hard-earned money.

#### EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today this body will have an

opportunity to show the American people that we get it. We will be asked to vote on an extension of unemployment insurance for 13 weeks for every State in the country.

Normally, this would be a no-brainer, given the fact that a couple weeks ago we had the largest percentage increase in the number of unemployed. There are almost 4 million Americans without a job who can't find one, and we have had millions of Americans lose their homes through mortgage foreclosures. All of our constituents are paying over \$4 a gallon for gas, almost three times what they were paying before the Bush administration came to office.

But it is not a no-brainer, because many of our Republican colleagues have consistently opposed extending unemployment insurance. A number of times, President Bush said he would veto the bill if we tried to extend unemployment insurance.

Madam Speaker, this is a failed economy. Let's not fail the American people today. Let's extend unemployment insurance.

#### BRAC/REFINERY BILL DISCHARGE PETITION

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, a new oil refinery has not been built in the United States in over 30 years, and the refineries that we do have are operating at or near capacity. No matter how much crude oil is made available, the United States simply does not have the capacity to refine it. And today we are importing processed refined gasoline, last week, 1.2 million barrels of refined gasoline.

Less than a week after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf, the price for regular gasoline increased by 46 cents, because much of our refining capacity is located along the Gulf Coast. Oil refining capacity is just one of the many aspects of our energy policy that we need to reconsider as gas prices continue their steep climb.

My bill, H.R. 2279, the subject of this week's discharge resolution, would address one of the largest hurdles to building a new refinery; finding land. By using a few closed military bases, we can jump-start the process and help address our refining needs.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE NECESSARY FOR 3.8 MILLION JOB-LESS AMERICANS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, millions of Americans all over the United States are struggling to put food on the table and gas in their cars. Imagine at the same time that these prices spike you lose your job and that your